



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Wyoming State Climate Office

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Wyoming's Climate: October 2012

Precipitation

Most areas of the state saw their first snowfall this month with Sheridan County being the first to report it. A CoCoRaHS observer northwest of Dayton, just south of the Montana border, reported the first snow in the state during the morning observation on the 4th of October. Much of Park, Johnson, Natrona, Campbell, Weston, Converse, Platte, Goshen, and Laramie counties followed suit the following day and, by the 6th, most all but the CoCoRaHS observers in the western and southwestern portions of the state had reported snowfall.

Another system moved through causing widespread snow later in the month from 23-25 October. This storm saw the greatest snowfall from CoCoRaHS observers when 12.5" of new snow was reported in Crook County the morning of the 25th.

Despite the snow, large portions of the state reported well below normal precipitation totals for October. Park, Big Horn, Hot Springs, Washakie, Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell, Crook, Weston, Converse, Natrona, Carbon, and Eastern Fremont counties were all below the 1981-2010 Normal with the Big Horn and Wind River basins being mostly at 70% or less.

The extreme west fared better with many stations coming in at 130% or greater than their Normal. In the southeast, Albany County was another area that saw above normal precipitation, thanks especially to the October 23-25 snow storm which gave between three-quarters and an inch of snow water equivalent to the area.

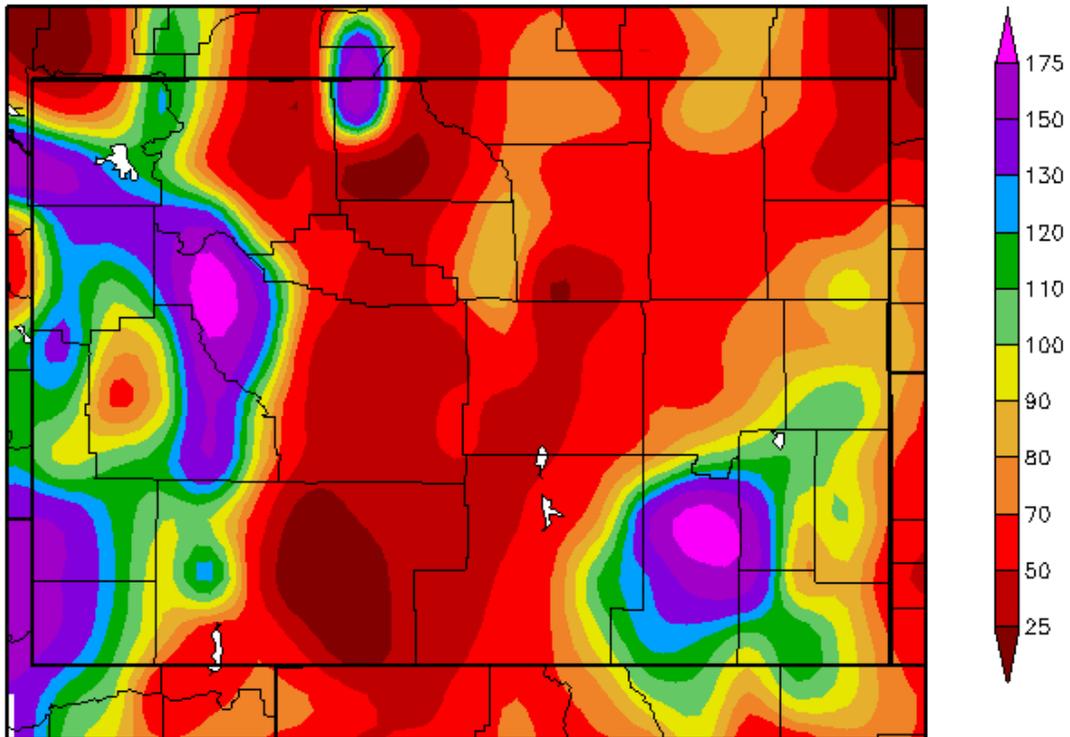
Temperature

October saw a break in the above normal temperatures that Wyoming had been experiencing for the last several months. The above Normal temperatures go back to and include March for much of the state although May saw near Normal to slightly below Normal temperatures for the northwest part of Wyoming. Only a handful of stations throughout the state (southern Lincoln, central Sweetwater, southern Carbon, and central Fremont counties) were above their 1981-2010 Normal in October and even they were generally only about a degree on the plus side. Much of the northern half of the state saw monthly temperatures that were 2°F to 4°F below Normal.

Drought levels remained mostly unchanged throughout October with the exception of an expansion of D4 in the east into all of Niobrara County as well as the northeast of Platte County and the eastern portion of Converse County and southern Weston County. There was some improvement (D3 to D2) in southwestern Laramie County along with a small amount of D1 south of Cheyenne. This was countered by an expansion (D2 to D3) in southern Lincoln and parts of Uinta counties. A very slight improvement (D1 to D0) was made in central Teton County. Currently 97.77 percent of the state is in some level of drought (ie D1-D4)

This report was prepared by the Wyoming State Climate Office, which is part of the Wyoming Water Resources Data System at the University of Wyoming. More information can be found at: <http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu> and http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/sco/climate_office.html. Special thanks to the National Weather Service's Riverton and Cheyenne Office, the NRCS Casper Office, and the Cheyenne US Geological Survey Office, and Wyoming CoCoRaHS observers for supplying much of the data and information used in this report.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/1/2012 – 10/31/2012

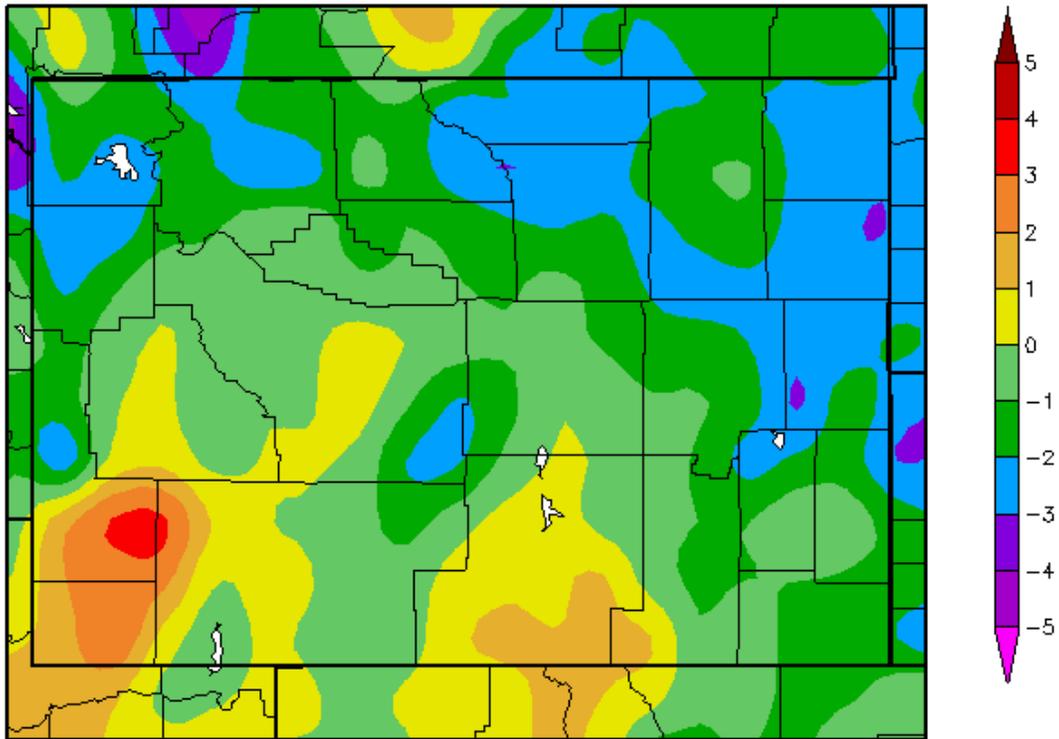


Generated 11/1/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing October 2012 precipitation as a percentage of historical averages (vs. 1981-2010 “normal” period) for Wyoming. Courtesy of the High Plains Regional Climate Center.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/1/2012 – 10/31/2012



Generated 11/1/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing mean October 2012 temperatures as departures from historical averages (vs. 1981-2010 “normal” period) for Wyoming. Courtesy of the High Plains Regional Climate Center.

U.S. Drought Monitor

October 30, 2012

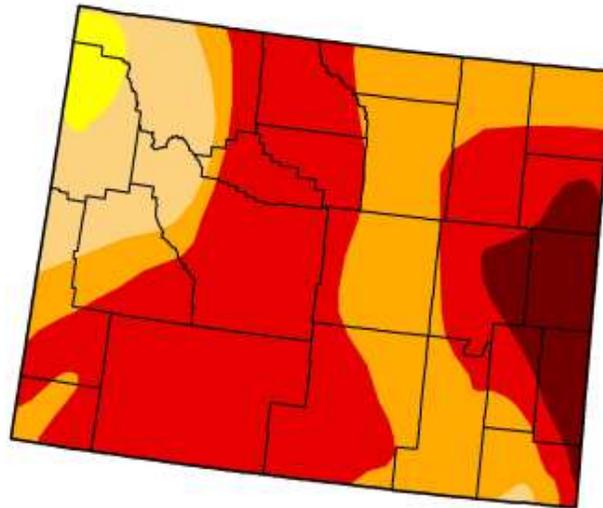
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Wyoming

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	97.77	86.23	56.98	7.61
Last Week (10/23/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	97.77	86.40	59.77	7.61
3 Months Ago (07/31/2012 map)	2.72	97.28	87.51	73.20	25.10	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	99.84	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	98.01	87.30	58.34	2.72
One Year Ago (10/25/2011 map)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, November 1, 2012

Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data Center/NOAA

Map showing Wyoming Drought Status as of the end of October 2012. Courtesy of the US Drought Monitor.